

QA-196
Wharf House
Centreville
Private

1771

This large brick house was constructed in 1771 by William Hopper, a prominent figure in Queen Anne's County throughout the latter part of the 18th century. One of the largest houses in the area at the time of its construction, Wharf House is one of the finest and most carefully preserved 18th century dwellings in the county. The superb interior woodwork includes a handsome open-string stair, an unusual interior cornice and fretwork window architraves. The two story frame wing and stone meat house are also 18th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

part of Chesterfield, Dockery's Lot, Wharf House

AND/OR COMMON

Wharf House**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West end of Chesterfield Avenue, at Centreville Wharf

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Franklin

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 63

Folio #: 527

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

QA-196

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wharf House, also known as Dockery's Lot, is sited on high ground on the point formed by the east and west branches of Corsica Creek. The house faces southeast, toward Centreville, adjacent to the intersection of the old roads leading from Centreville to Corsica Neck and to Spaniards Neck. The house was built in 1771, however, and therefore predates both Centreville and Centreville Wharf, which have grown up around it.

The main house is brick, two-and-one-half stories high, five bays wide and one room deep. An early two story frame wing extends from the southwest gable of the house, and a small frame addition to the southwest of this has bridged the remaining gap between the house and a stone meat house. This meat house is 18th century in date, and may well have been built at the same time as the house.

The brickwork on the southeast facade of the main house is laid in Flemish bond above a plain watertable and a three course bond foundation. A three course Flemish bond belt course is carried

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

QA-196

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1771

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Hopper (owner)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This large brick house was constructed in 1771 by William Hopper, a prominent figure in Queen Anne's County throughout the latter part of the 18th century. The house stands on a small parcel of a tract known as Dockery's Lot and overlooks Centreville Landing, the center of maritime commerce on Corsica Creek for over 200 years. At the time it was constructed, the primary focus of economic activity in this area was the Corsica tobacco inspection warehouse, located within a short distance of the house, and Chester Mill, farther up the south branch of the creek. In 1792, the new town of Centreville was laid out on the adjoining tract of Chesterfield, owned by the Nicholson family. As the town of Centreville grew the wharf area expanded in importance and by the late 19th century was the center of a thriving maritime trade that linked

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCESEmory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland Baltimore, 1950

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

11/15/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

across the facade. The entrance door is located in the center bay with two nine-over-nine windows flanking the door on the first floor and five nine-over-six windows on the second. All first and second floor windows have rusticated wood lintels with raised keystone blocks. There are four cellar windows, one placed directly below each first floor window. Three gable roof six-over-six dormers are symmetrically arranged on the third floor. These appear to be later, but framing evidence is concealed by plaster on the interior, and could not be examined. The front door is paneled and set off by a five light transom and extremely fine surround. The surround is composed of reeded pilasters flanking the door with scrolled brackets supporting a bold cornice composed of a crown mold, a fascia board with tryglyphs, and a bed mold decorated with wall-of-troy dentils. The molded door surround has crossetted corners, while the jambs and soffit are paneled. Further elegance on this facade is derived from a bold cornice consisting of a deep soffit with a simple crown mold and a complex bed mold.

The northeast gable is laid in Flemish bond from the watertable up to the second floor eave line..

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION

It is laid in three-course to five-course bond in the upper gable, and three-course bond below the water table. Two four-light windows in the upper gable, flanking the flush chimney, are the only openings in this facade. The rakeboard is tapered and beaded and the face is broken into two planes by a small ogee molding.

The northwest facade, facing Corsica Creek, is similar to the front facade. The brickwork, cornice, and fenestration are identical, but the window openings do not have decorative lintels and the original door surround is missing. A new door surround of very fine craftsmanship was made by the present owner, William Franklin. Decorative elements were based on the front door and the interior woodwork. The middle dormer on this facade is slightly larger than the flanking dormers, with a six-over-six window in the center, flanked by a pair of two-over-two sash.

To the right of the door are two marked bricks, the first inscribed with the date "1771" and the second with two initials "WH", presumably referring to William Hopper, who owned Dockery's Lot at that time.

The southwest gable is almost entirely covered

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

by the frame wing. The chimney at this end is not flush, but projects approximately 12 inches from the gable wall. There is a small four light window to the right of the chimney in the upper gable. The visible brickwork is laid in three-to five-course bond, and the watertable is carried across the gable. The rakeboard is beaded and flares at the eaves, but is not tapered.

The interior is arranged in a center hall floor plan with a single room on each side of the hall. The stair rises along the southwest wall to a landing at the northwest end of the hall, rises three steps to a second landing, then turns and ascends to the second floor. It is an open string stair with plain scrolled stair ends, square section balusters, delicate turned newels, and a railed railing. Vertical raised paneling fills the space below the carriage, and a small four-panel door allows access to a closet below the landing.

In the northwest room, the fireplace is centered on the gable wall with an original door in the alcove to the left of the fireplace leading to the wing. The gable wall in this room was originally paneled with very fine wood paneling and an ornate mantel. This was

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION

sold to an antique dealer by a previous owner and is now located in the headquarters of the Colonial Dames in New York City. The present mantel was installed when the house was restored in the 1940's, and dates to the late 18th or early 19th century. The window openings are recessed, with solayed jambs and crossetted surrounds. The windows are further embellished with paneled soffits and jambs, and the front face of the jambs are reeded below the chairrail. Both the baseboard and the chairrail are molded, and the interior door surrounds are crossetted. The original interior cornice remains on three of the interior walls and has been restored on the fireplace wall. This is a bold, complex cornice highlighted by a row of unusual triangular dentils.

The northeast room is slightly larger than the southwest room, with a fireplace centered on the gable wall. This wall was originally elaborately paneled, with an ornate mantel, overmantel, and cornice, and a pair of arched shell-back cupboards flanking the fireplace. Unfortunately this paneling was also sold, but all other original woodwork remains. Of particular interest in this room are the double crossetted surrounds

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.5 DESCRIPTION

and some unusual fretwork on the lower window jambs which can best be described as resembling Gothic tracery.

The second floor consists of a modified center hall plan with a small unheated chamber at the southeast end of the stair hall.

The southwest room has a fireplace slightly off-center on the gable wall with a small, apparently original mantel. This has a crossetted surround and blocks with a single diamond fret on the front face supporting a heavy shelf with a complex molding dominated by a dentil block band. A door to the right of the fireplace leads to the wing; the cupboard to the left of the fireplace is a 20th century addition. The window and door surrounds are not crossetted, but are otherwise typical of those found on the first floor.

The northeast room has a small fireplace slightly off-center on the gable wall, with a pair of six-panel doors leading to closets on either side. The fireplace wall is paneled, and the original mantel and overmantel remain in place. The mantel consists of a crossetted surround with two reeded blocks supporting a complex molded shelf that breaks forward above the blocks.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.6 DESCRIPTION

The overmantel consists of a complex crossetted surround. Other refinement is provided by a dentil block interior cornice, crossetted door and window surrounds, and a chairrail and baseboard.

The main stairway is carried on up to the third floor, which is plastered but unheated and very plain. This floor was probably used for extra sleeping chambers and storage.

The cellar is divided into two rooms, with the partition located below the northeast wall of the first floor hall. There is an arched recess in the base below the northeast chimney. The base for the southwest chimney is solid. The foundation for the exterior walls is rough fieldstone below ground level.

The frame addition to the southwest gable is two stories high and three bays wide. It has been completely renovated at least twice, and retains only scattered evidence of its original appearance. At present, the fenestration pattern consists of an exterior door in the northeast bay of the southeast facade, with two six-over-six windows on the first floor and three six-over-six windows on the second floor. On the northwest facade there are three six-over-six windows on each floor. The southwest gable is almost entirely

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.7 DESCRIPTION

covered by a frame addition that serves as a shop. A pair of four-light windows flank the flush brick chimney in the upper gable.

The interior was probably originally divided into two rooms on each floor, with the first floor serving primarily as a kitchen for the main house, and the second floor providing additional living quarters. The original fireplace remains in altered form on the first floor. The floor level was raised approximately 18 inches in 1911, and repairs in the chimney show where the lintel was raised and the firebox readjusted to the new floor level. The ceiling has remained at the original location, reducing the present ceiling height to approximately eight feet. Beaded horizontal paneling and an open string stair in the north corner of the building appear to be early, if not original. On the second floor, a simple mantel surround and offset paneling have survived on the southwest gable wall. The paneling is similar to that found at Great Homes (QA-1) and Walnut Grove (QA-110) but has a complex panel mold typical of the late 18th century and early 19th century.

The loft space above the second floor is floored

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

with wide boards secured with wrought nails, but is otherwise unfinished and does not appear to have served as living space. The common rafter roof is constructed of hewn and pit sawn timber secured at the ridge with a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint. The gable studs are mortised into the gable top plate and nailed with wrought nails to the gable rafter pair.

Meat House

This building adjoins a modern frame addition to the southwest of the main house. It is of stone construction and can be positively dated to the 13th century as it is listed and described on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. It is almost square, 13 feet by 14 feet, with a gable roof. The door is located in the center of the southeast facade, and there is a large nine light window (not original) in the center of the southwest gable. A wood lintel remains embedded in the center of the rear wall, suggesting that there may once have been a window in that facade as well. The roof is constructed of rafter pairs with two sets of collars resting on a flat false plate supported

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.9 DESCRIPTION

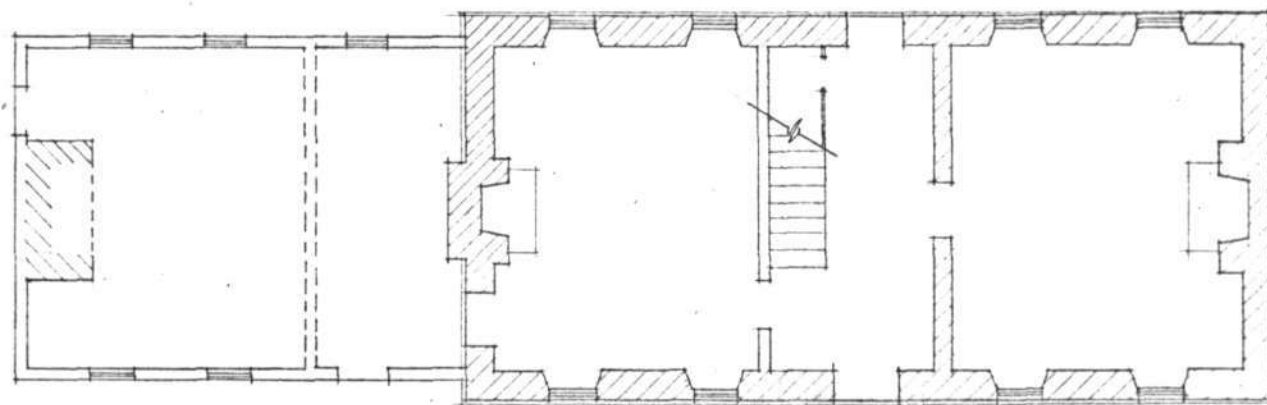
by heavy joists. All framing members are hewn and pit sawn, and the rafters are secured at the ridge with a pegged mortise and tenon joint. The collars are half-lapped into the rafters, and the gable studs are secured with wrought nails. One gable is sheathed on the inside with one-inch boards secured with wrought nails.

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Centreville with Baltimore, Norfolk, and the smaller towns throughout the Chesapeake. While changes in economic patterns and transportation have since curtailed the importance of the Centreville waterfront, residential growth has gradually spread along the old road to the wharf, now known as Chesterfield Avenue, and today Wharf House is part of a quiet residential neighborhood.

The social importance of William Hopper is clearly expressed in the architectural detailing of the house. In size alone it was one of the largest houses in this part of the county, and displays some of the finest brickwork and interior woodwork in the county. The gable walls of both first floor parlours were fully paneled, and a handsome open string stair rises to the third floor. Although the paneling was moved to New York earlier in this century, the stairway, a superb interior cornice, and unusual fretwork window architraves have survived in place. Other notable details include the rusticated window lintels and the handsome pedimented entrance door. The two story frame wing and the stone meat house also date to the 18th century.



0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14
SCALE: $\frac{3}{32}" = 1'-0"$

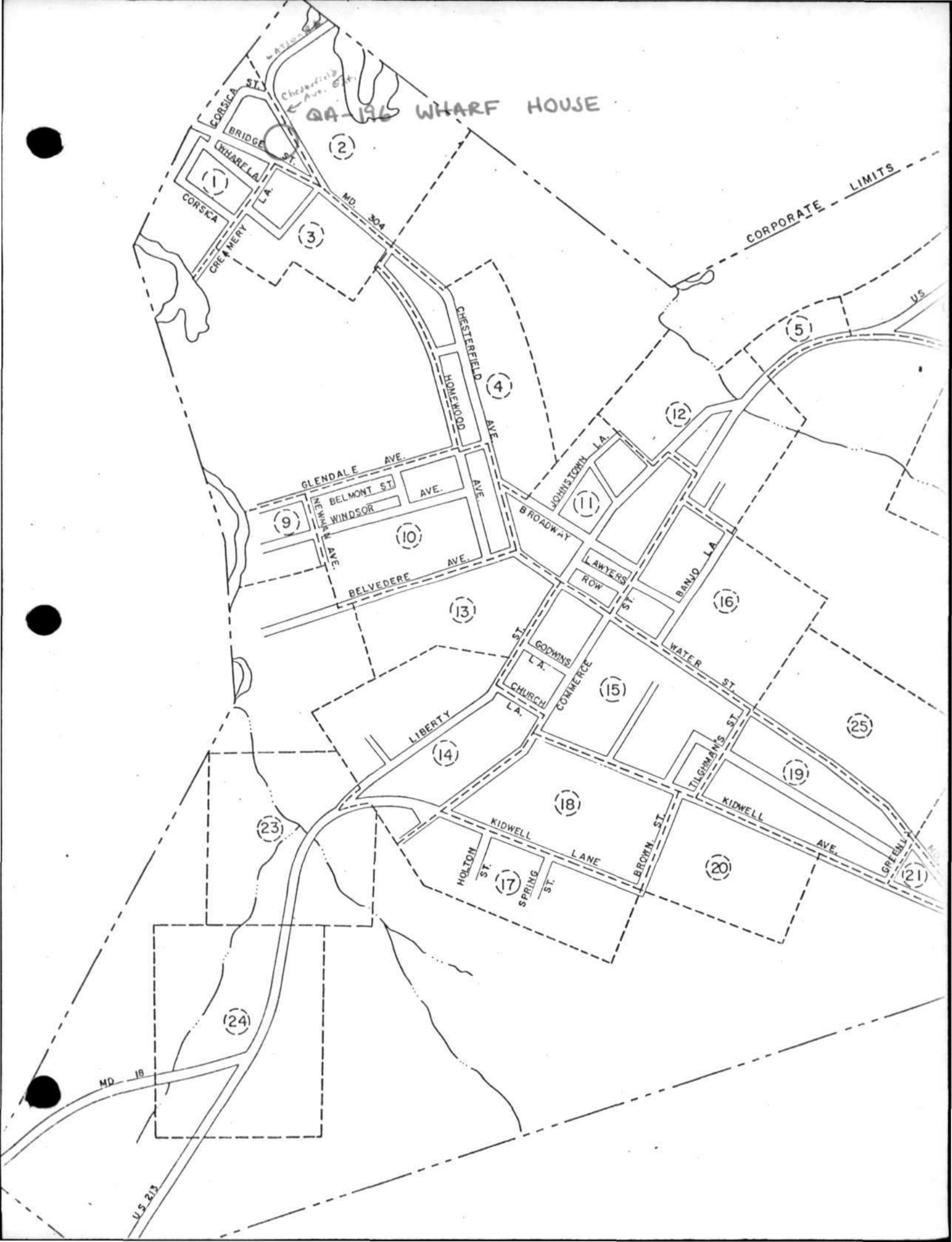


ORLANDO RIDOUT V

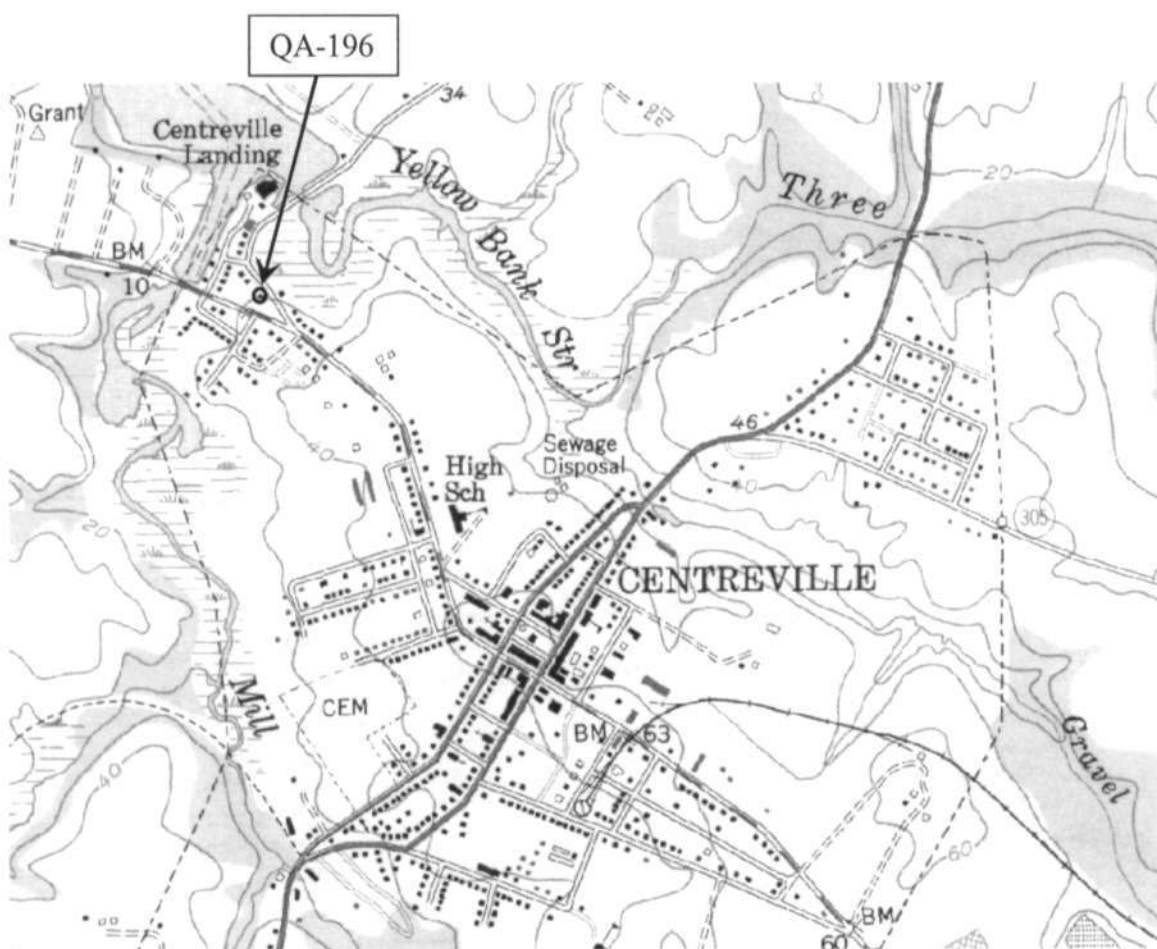
QA-196

WHARF HOUSE
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

JULY 17, 1978



QA-196
Warf House (part of Chesterfield, Dockery's Lot)
Chesterfield Ave.
Centreville
Centreville Quad.
Queen Anne's Co.



QA-196
Wharf House

Mary McCarthy
Spring/Summer 2003
Digital color photo on file at MHT





QA-196 Wharf House
Centerville Wharf
ORV 1978



QA-196 Wharf House
OKV 1978



QH-196 Wharf House - Door
OR v 1978
Centerville Wharf



QA-196 Wharf House - stone meat house, before 1798
(Franklin House)
OR V 1978.



QA-196 ~~7~~ Wharf Home
Centerville

OR v 1978



QA-196 Wharf House
Centerville landing
ORV 1979



QA-196 Wharf House

Centreville

OR 1979



DA-196 Wharf House
Centerville
ORV 1979



QA-196

#196

Wharf House

April 1974
JWW



QA-196

#196

Wharf House

James W. Vallant

April 1974
JWV



QA-196

196

Wharf House

April 1974
JWV



QA-196

#196

Wharf House

April 1974
JWW



Q.A. # 196

Wharf House

GWU - Spring 1973



QA-196

196

Wharf House

April 1974
JWV